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DROPLETS FROM THE PLANKTON NET XXV. RECORD OF A *ROSTRARIA* FROM SETO[1)]

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With 2 Text-figures

This short note is to record a specimen of *Rostraria*, which was found in the catch of the Dragonet II, an opening-closing quantitative trawl, trawled on the 50 m deep sand bottom about 1.2 km off Cape Setozaki on June 13, 1966. The specimen was found by Dr. R. BIERI in the upper-net sample which was, however, much contaminated with the upper water during the drawing up of the Dragonet. Thus, the exact level at which the present *Rostraria* was caught is quite uncertain. At the first sight, the outline of the specimen fixed and preserved in 4% formaldehyde in sea water reminded me of something like *Thliptodon*, a gymnosomatous pteropod. Further examination under the microscope, however, revealed immediately that the specimen was a polychaete larva. The existence of a pair of stout tentacles showed a close resemblance to some larvae of the family Spionidae. But, in the larvae of Spionidae many segments and then parapodia are completed very early as noted for instance in HANNERZ' paper (1956: Zoologiska Bidrag fr. Uppsala, 31, pp. 1–204), and the tentacles may be contracted but never in a coiled state. The very slow development of segments and parapodia and a strongly coiled state of contracted tentacles, caused by uneven distribution of muscles in them, together with a prominent forward stretch of the prostomium and the existence of a pair of bundles of filamentous setae on the first segment, which are all the important characters to define the larvae belonging to *Rostraria*, are applicable to the present specimen.

So far as I am aware, there is no certain record of *Rostraria* from the northwestern part of the Pacific. Then, to facilitate the tracing in future of *Rostraria* to adult polychaetes, the present specimen is described and named provisionally for convenience' sake *Rostraria bierii* after Dr. Robert BIERI who designed and operated the Dragonet, collected the specimen by the apparatus and left it for my examination. My hearty thanks to him for his generosity are due.

1) Contributions from the Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, No. 532 and Studies on Meiobenthos by Dragonet, No. 7.

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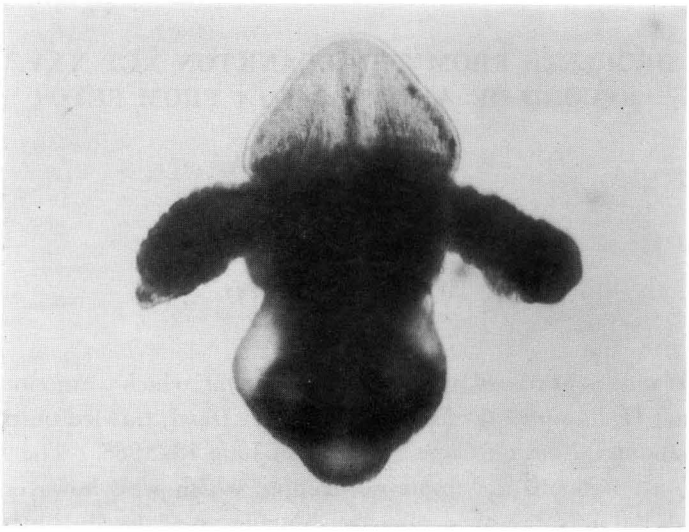

Fig. 1. *Rostraria bierii* nov. Dorsal side, ×60. Retractor muscles and the nototroch are seen faintly on the prostomium.
(Photo. by Dr. NISHIMURA and Mr. MORINO)

Rostraria bierii nov.

The larva is 1.05 mm long in a preserved state. The prostomium: the trunk is about 5:7, thus the pair of tentacles are inserted very near, slightly anterior to, the middle of the body. The head or the prostomium (pr) is hood-shaped in outline, very flattened, faintly concave ventrally, and stretched forward. As it is provided with a pair of retractor muscles (r), it may be strongly bent ventrally to cover the mouth (m). On the dorsal side, it is a little thickened on each lateral side of the proximal portion and is furnished with a small ciliated ring or nototroch (n) in the middle of the basal portion.

The trunk or soma forms anteriorly the collar which assumes the peristome (pe) on the ventral side, but is divided into four segments (I–IV) on the dorsal side. Thus, the trunk is five-segmented; the last and fifth segment (s) is much bigger than others, occupies more than two thirds of the trunk and is markedly swollen. The anus (a) is displaced slightly onto the ventral side. The segment I is provided on each lateral side with a quiver for setae; up to ten filamentous setae are planted in the middle groove of the quiver; setae are not so long as to reach the posterior end of the trunk. Segment II is larger than Segment III or IV; the Segment IV is marked near the middle faintly with a transverse stria which might foreshadow the formation of a further segment. The mouth (m) assumes a longitudinal cleft at the middle of the peristome and is bordered posteriorly by the lower lip (l). The last and largest part of the trunk is furnished with a number of longitudinal muscles. As this part still retains a con-

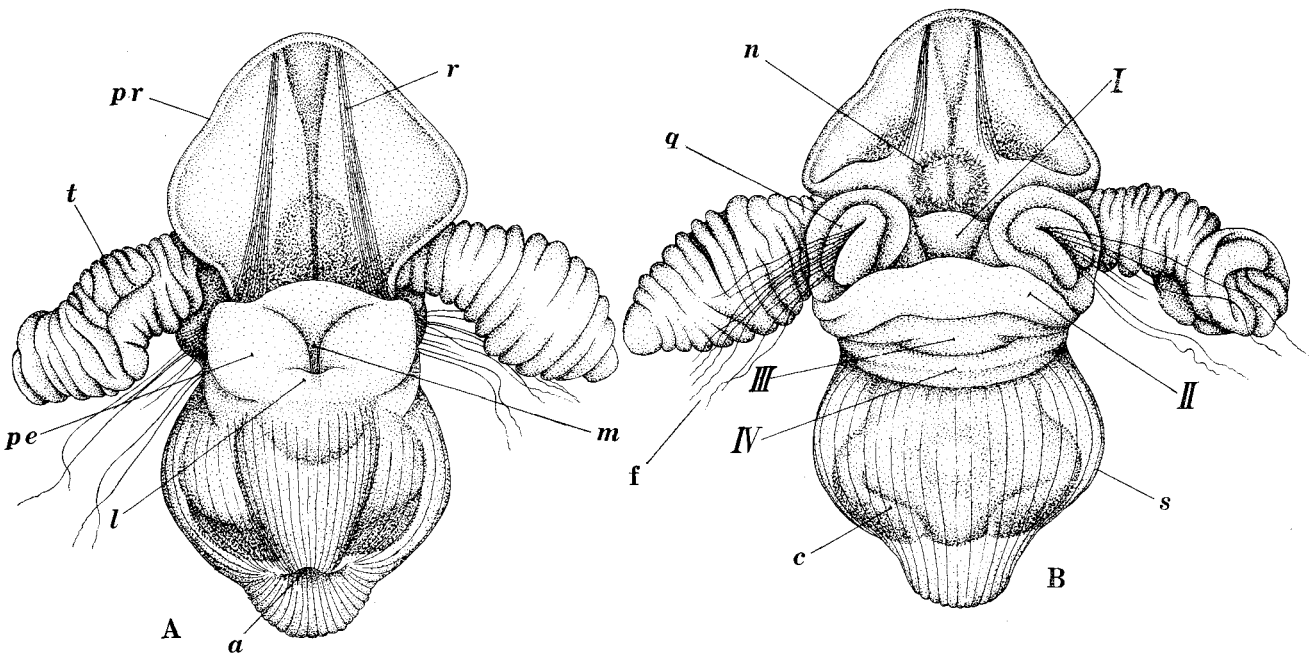

Fig. 2. *Rostraria bierii* nov. A—ventral side, B—dorsal side; ×73. a—anus, c—mid-gut coecum, f—filamentous setae, l—lower lip, m—mouth, n—nototroch, pe—peristome, pr—prostomium, q—quiver for setae, r—retractor, s—last segment of trunk, t—tentacle, I-IV—first to fourth segments.

siderable translucency, it is seemingly contracted but never so much. A pair of coeca (c) are attached to the mid-gut.

The tentacles (t) are contracted to about 500 μ in length; the surface with clear marks of coiling. The whole body is milky white, and somewhat translucent; only the distal end of each coecum of the mid-gut is coloured deep orange to brownish.

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